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Muir has a keen eye for essentials, he has a nice sense of proportion and is decidedly successful in excluding irrelevant details; on the other hand, he has a proneness to a fault—not uncommon among writers brought up on the history of their own country—of introducing incidents which he does not adequately describe or explain, thus leaving the legitimate curiosity of the reader unsatisfied. The style is clear and flowing; but, for the fastidious, is marred at intervals by the repetition of a word or the selection of a variant of the same word within a sentence or two—a possible indication of haste in composition. Among the chapters most to be commended are the two on “Changing Social Conditions” in the fourteenth century, and “The Social Organization of the British Commonwealth” in the middle of the eighteenth century, both of which are exceedingly well balanced and informing. At the ends of chapters fairly well chosen bibliographical lists are given; but they are decidedly too scanty except for the uninitiated; apparently an atlas is in preparation to accompany the text, and a chronological index, or list of dates and events, occupying ten pages in double columns should prove very helpful; unfortunately, however, there is no sign of any genealogical tables. Taking everything into consideration, so far as one can judge from the first volume, this should prove an excellent work for those who wish to learn, without too extensive reading, about the strivings and achievements of the British people.

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The Influence of the Sea on the Political History of Japan.

By VICE-ADMIRAL G. A. BALLARD, C.B. New York, E. P. Dutton and Company, 1921.—vii, 311 pp.

Ever since the appearance of Mahan's *Influence of Sea Power in History* various writers have called attention to the importance of naval power in this or that region, or its bearing upon the solution of some international problem. Admiral Ballard in the volume under review tells the interesting story of Japan's phenomenal rise to power through the mastery of the sea in eastern Asia.

During the two hundred years of seclusion which preceded Perry's visit, Japan forbade her subjects to go abroad, allowed no foreigners to land in her territories, and prohibited the building or use by her people of any sea-going junks. The sea was her sufficient defense for that time. But when Perry's great black warships, moving under steam-power, came into Yokohama Bay, Japanese statesmen

were not long in discovering that the age of seclusion was past. The building of a modern navy became one of their earliest undertakings after the opening of their country to Western intercourse. In this they were more successful than their neighbors, the Chinese, whose plans for the acquisition of a powerful fleet were abandoned to please the whim of an ignorant and wilful empress, who diverted the naval fund to the building of a costly summer palace for herself.

In Japan's next invasion of Korea, during the war of 1894 with China, Hideyoshi's mistake was not repeated. Control of the sea was established from the very beginning. The Chinese, with their happy-go-lucky methods of government, were as usual unprepared for war and, although they possessed some good vessels, were sadly in lack of ammunition. This, it is generally understood in the Far East, was the principal reason for Ting's withdrawal to Wei-hai-wei after the battle of the Yalu, which at the time was considered as a draw.

In his discussion of the causes of the war with China, Admiral Ballard scarcely does justice to the claims of China in Korea, for there can be no doubt of the existence for many centuries of the relationship of vassal and overlord between the Korean King and the Emperor at Peking. Tribute was sent regularly up to the year of the war, 1894. On the other hand, Korea was never tributary to Japan. But, while Korea was the bone of contention between China and Japan, the war could have been avoided, and possibly would have been avoided, had it not been for the domestic situation in Japan. Admiral Ballard makes a mistake in his statement (page 131) that the Japanese suggested mutual withdrawal of troops from Korea by China and Japan, and that the Chinese refused to agree. The exact reverse is the truth. The Chinese proposed simultaneous withdrawal, but the Japanese refused.

In 1894 the liberal party in Japan was agitating for a more popular form of government, for real legislative power on the part of the parliament and for a cabinet responsible to parliament. After two dissolutions of parliament, Ito found the government still in the minority and plunged the country into war to put an end to factional disputes at home.

Japan's plans for conquest and annexation of Formosa, the Pescadores, Saghalien, the Kuriles, Korea, Manchuria, eastern Siberia and Kamtchatka were outlined by Yoshida Shoin in 1854. The Japanese Government of course has never avowed such an intention, but Yoshida Shoin was the teacher of Ito, Shinagawa, Inouye and other

leaders of the Restoration, and thus far the Government has pretty faithfully followed the plan proposed. In 1914 Mr. Tokutomi, editor of the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* of Tokyo, published the life of Yoshida Shoin and concluded the biography with the observation that the plan had been almost entirely executed.

Admiral Ballard is a frank admirer of the Japanese, and as a naval officer he undoubtedly found much worthy of admiration in the seamanlike qualities of his Japanese colleagues. He estimates very highly, and with good reason, the importance to Great Britain of the Anglo-Japanese Alliance, pointing out the great blunder of Germany in 1897 in alienating Japan and making of her a potential enemy when she might have been an ally (page 177). He notes in an interesting manner how greatly the course of the World War would have been changed had Japan been an ally of Germany instead of Britain.

The naval operations of the Russo-Japanese War are also brought under critical review. The handicap under which Russia fought so far from her base, with which she was connected only by one single-track railway, is recognized. But the Admiral is slightly in error in saying (page 285) that the Russians were forced to evacuate Manchuria and that the evacuation was made permanent. They were forced out of the leased territory of the Liaotung Peninsula, but remained in northern Manchuria, and their rights in the northern section of the South Manchuria Railway and in the Chinese Eastern Railway are still admitted.

In his concluding chapter the author makes reference to the immigration of Japanese into the United States. He says (page 293):

Four-fifths of the population of the United States are of pure European extraction, and history makes it abundantly clear that Europeans and Asiatics are so constituted that they can never occupy the same country in peace unless one or other occupies the position of an inferior race. . . . These plain lessons should make it clear to anyone that a wholesale Japanese emigration to the United States would be as bad for Japan as for America.

But the Admiral's argument fails to convince us that this racial exclusiveness requires the Western world on its part to recognize Japan's political, military and economic interests in the Far East as paramount. Why must the rights of other peoples of the Far East in their own lands be made secondary to those of the Japanese? The Japanese have a perfect right to emigrate to any country that does not forbid their coming, but that does not mean that the Japa-

nese Government must, because of such emigration, be allowed to follow them with their own political and military domination in territories belonging to others. Japan's aggressions on the continent of Asia seem to indicate a desire to annex the territories to which her people are inclined to emigrate.

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Life of Robert, Marquis of Salisbury. By His Daughter, LADY GWENDOLEN CECIL. London, Hodder and Stoughton, 1921. —2 vols.; viii, 353; vi, 390 pp.

In these two volumes on the life and work of her father, Lady Gwendolen Cecil brings the story of his public career scarcely beyond its threshold, for she closes with the Conservative defeat in the General Election of 1880, before Lord Salisbury had assumed the leadership of his party and five years before the beginning of the first of his three administrations. She does not disclose her intentions, but if she plans to carry what she has begun to completion, we may look forward to a biography which, in length at least, will not fail to do justice to the importance of its subject.

The two matters of greatest public moment with which Salisbury was concerned during the period of his life covered by these volumes were Parliamentary Reform and the Eastern Question. To the former the author devotes nearly half of her first volume, to the latter approximately two-thirds of her second. In 1852 Lord John Russell abandoned for the Act of 1832 the claim of "finality" which he had previously made, and throughout the years in which Salisbury (then Lord Robert Cecil) sat in the House of Commons (1853-68) the parliamentary atmosphere was charged with the reform agitation. In his stalwart opposition to the advance of democracy Lady Gwendolen evidently believes that her father was battling for a lost cause. In discussing the Reform Act of 1867 she writes:

Upon one point opinion would now be probably agreed,—that, whether for good or evil, the change was inevitable. To go no further back into original causes than the Act of 1832, it is apparent that the democratic principle then established was bound, sooner or later, to become supreme over every competing influence. . . . The decree had been pronounced, and, however unconsciously, the combatants were only engaged in disputing the time and form of its publication (vol. I, p. 286).

Yet on grounds of party ethics and loyalty to political principles